

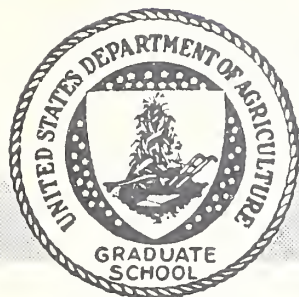
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# Newsletter

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DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

May 24, 1957

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## CALENDAR FOR JUNE

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| 3-8 | Registration for Summer School<br>Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.<br>Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| 10  | Classes begin   |
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To the Faculty, Committee Members and  
others associated with the Graduate School:

On August 1, O. B. Conaway, Jr. will leave our staff to become Director of the Graduate Program in Public Administration sponsored by the State of New York and offered in Albany by New York University and Syracuse University in cooperation with the State University of New York. Although we are sorry to lose Dr. Conaway we feel complimented that a member of the Graduate School staff has been selected for this important post.

Intended primarily for government employees, this program is open to all college graduates wishing to prepare themselves for government service and to other qualified persons interested in public policy and in administrative and management practice. The program leads to the degree of Master of Public Administration from either Syracuse or New York University. All the residence work for the degree may be completed in Albany.

Dr. Conaway, who is a native of West Virginia, came to the Graduate School in November 1951 from Boston University. While a member of our staff he has been instrumental in setting up programs for Federal employees in metropolitan areas--in cooperation with Boston University, New York University, and Temple University in Philadelphia. He also served as consultant for the United Nations in the establishment of a public administration program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. For the past two years, Dr. Conaway has conducted a public administration training course for government employees from countries around the world brought here by the ICA. Our warmest good wishes go with Dr. Conaway and his family in their new assignment.

Of more than 1600 institutions of higher learning in the United States, only 173 offer courses in the Russian language. Jacob Ornstein, who teaches in the Graduate School, describes the development and status of Slavic and East European studies in the western hemisphere in external research paper 129, one of a continuing series of social and political studies, by the State Department.

Dr. Ornstein points out that the very close tie of Russian teaching to military and political events gives it a special distinction and constitutes a source of strength.

"On the credit side, it can be said that Russian language instruction has benefited from wartime experimentation with intensive spoken techniques and the use of teachers and improved audio-visual aids; new texts and materials have been brought out, or are under preparation, and these begin to take into account the psychology and needs of American students. In addition, a corps of professionally-minded Slavists is emerging. They are interested in improving their instruction and eager to exchange information through publications and professional organizations.

"On the debit side, Russian teaching is still too dependent for its very existence upon utilitarian considerations and the fluctuations of the international situation and, indeed, upon government and foundation subsidies. For most students, Russian does not have the appeal of the classical and West European languages. Another handicap is the lack of professional training among many persons teaching Slavic languages. The thorny problem of providing well-prepared teachers in the Slavic field is complicated by the fact that to train even a fledgling instructor in Slavic requires a minimum of ten years. As for teaching materials, a sort of vicious circle is set in motion by relatively low enrollments.

"In the final analysis, the future of the teaching and study of Russian and East European languages depends not only upon strategic considerations of the international situation, but also upon the effectiveness of its teachers, and the belief of the American public, expressed through its college youth, in the practical, cultural importance of Slavic and East European studies."

Copies of this interesting report may be obtained from the External Research Staff, Office of Intelligence Research, Department of State or by calling the publications officer at State on extension 3169.

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"Democracy is not easy. It is the hardest way of all, because it is the most disciplined." The quotation is from a chapter by T. V. Smith in "The Democratic Way of Life." We were reminded of it at our final faculty luncheon of the year as we listened to W. Earl Armstrong describe this country's distinctive voluntary system for accrediting schools and colleges.

Dr. Armstrong, who is director of the National Council for Accrediting Teacher Education, traced the growth of accrediting agencies over the past 60 years. By 1948, so many new agencies were being organized that college leaders formed a national committee to police the system.



The Association with which Dr. Armstrong works is the accrediting body for 291 institutions. Most of these--89 percent--have begun to give graduate courses in the past 10 years. And this indicates one of the trends of the times. Institutions of higher learning across the country are becoming more alike. The teachers college is giving more emphasis to liberal arts. Land-grant colleges and universities, once concerned chiefly with the applied sciences, have also strengthened work in the fine arts.

Dr. Armstrong spoke of the growing interest around the world in more education for more people, more education under local control, and more functional education. He credits the Land-Grant college system with much of the success in reaching these goals in the United States.

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The refresher course that helps the physician keep abreast of fast-moving developments in his profession--in new ideas, techniques, and equipment--has become well established in the medical world. We are beginning to see that it has an equally important place in other applied sciences. Earlier this year, when we held brainstorming sessions to obtain suggestions for future programs, we had many requests for courses of this type.

As a result, we are offering for the first time this fall, a survey course on recent advances in entomology. It will be taught by Clarence H. Hoffman of the Entomology Research Division, USDA, at Plant Industry Station Beltsville. Dr. Hoffman will be assisted by other scientists in the Division who are specialists in the lines on which they will lecture.

These ~~will~~ include new developments in: the control of livestock pests; the role of insect pathogens as biological controls; new techniques in the classification of insects; advances in the development of improved crop varieties with resistance to insect attack; hazards associated with the widespread use of insects; the influence of new legislation on the use of insecticides; advances in insect physiology; the role of chemistry in the development of insecticides.

The prerequisite for students who wish to take this course for credit is basic training in entomology.

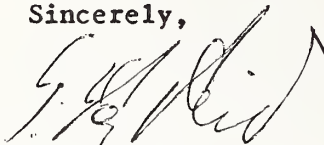
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Our latest "brainstorming" venture had as its purpose the stimulation of new ideas on improving public relations for the Graduate School. We invited a group of people who are experienced as information specialists and training officers to suggest ways we can tell our story to the people who may be interested in taking courses here. As in other "brainstorming" sessions, this one produced between 40 and 50 suggestions during the hour of the meeting. Among them were proposals that we use the many-sided approaches that are now customary in the advertising world: feature stories in house organs and the metropolitan papers, posters, car cards and car stickers, television and radio interviews, open house tours, special leaflets, and special services to people in key positions such as training officers and other leaders. We are now studying the proposals and evaluating them to see which can be fitted into our public relations program. However, the subject is by no means closed, and if you have ideas on how we can do a better job of public relations, we would like very much to have them.

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You may wish to tell your colleagues in the field about our correspondence course in Statistical Methods in Biology and Agriculture. F. M. Wadley, who has revised it, points out that the new edition continues the trend in statistical work of giving more mathematics. The lessons serve as valued reference material after the student completes the work. The course is taught by Robert J. Taylor of the National Institutes of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T. Roy Reid", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

T. Roy Reid  
Director